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## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

File Number: 2014-08-013

Date: August 12, 2014

This office has under consideration the application of:

Walrus & Carpenter Oysters LLC  
c/o Jules Opton-Himmel  
73 Harrison Street  
Providence, RI 02909

for a State of Rhode Island Assent to construct and maintain: a three acre expansion to their existing aquaculture site. The application requests the use of floating aquaculture gear and the seasonal mooring of a work platform. Please see the attached map and work plan.

Project Location:	Ninigret Pond
City/Town:	Charlestown
Waterway:	Ninigret Pond

Plans of the proposed work may be seen at the CRMC office in Wakefield.

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act (Chapter 42-35 of the Rhode Island General Laws) you may request a hearing on this matter.

You are advised that if you have good reason to enter protests against the proposed work it is your privilege to do so. It is expected that objectors will review the application and plans thoroughly, visit site of proposed work if necessary, to familiarize themselves with the conditions and cite what law or laws, if any, would in their opinion be violated by the work proposed.

If you desire to protest, you must attend the scheduled hearing and give sworn testimony. A notice of the time and place of such hearing will be furnished you as soon as possible after receipt of your request for hearing. If you desire to request a hearing, to receive consideration, it should be in writing (**with your correct mailing address, e-mail address and valid contact number**) and be received at this office on or before September 12, 2014.

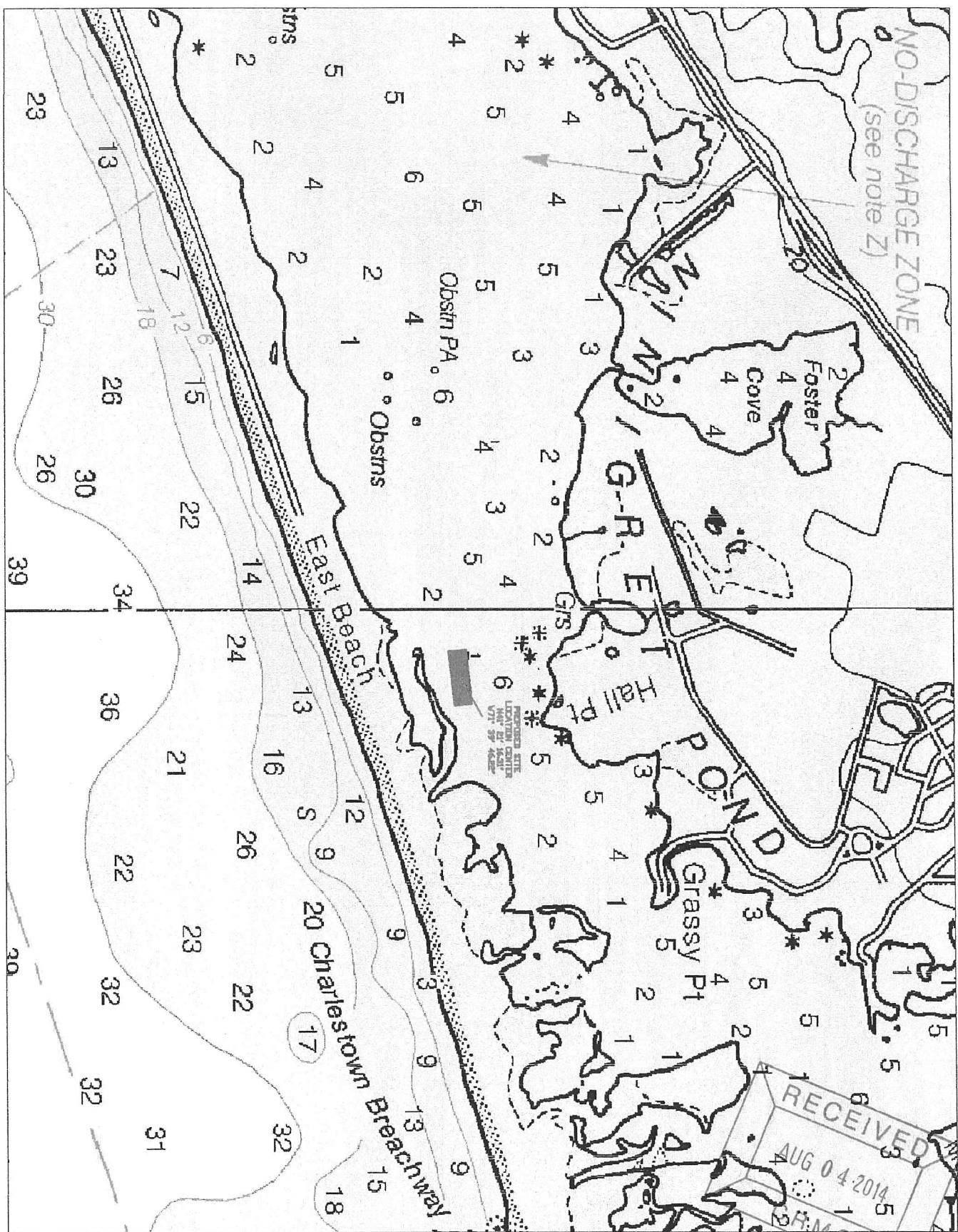
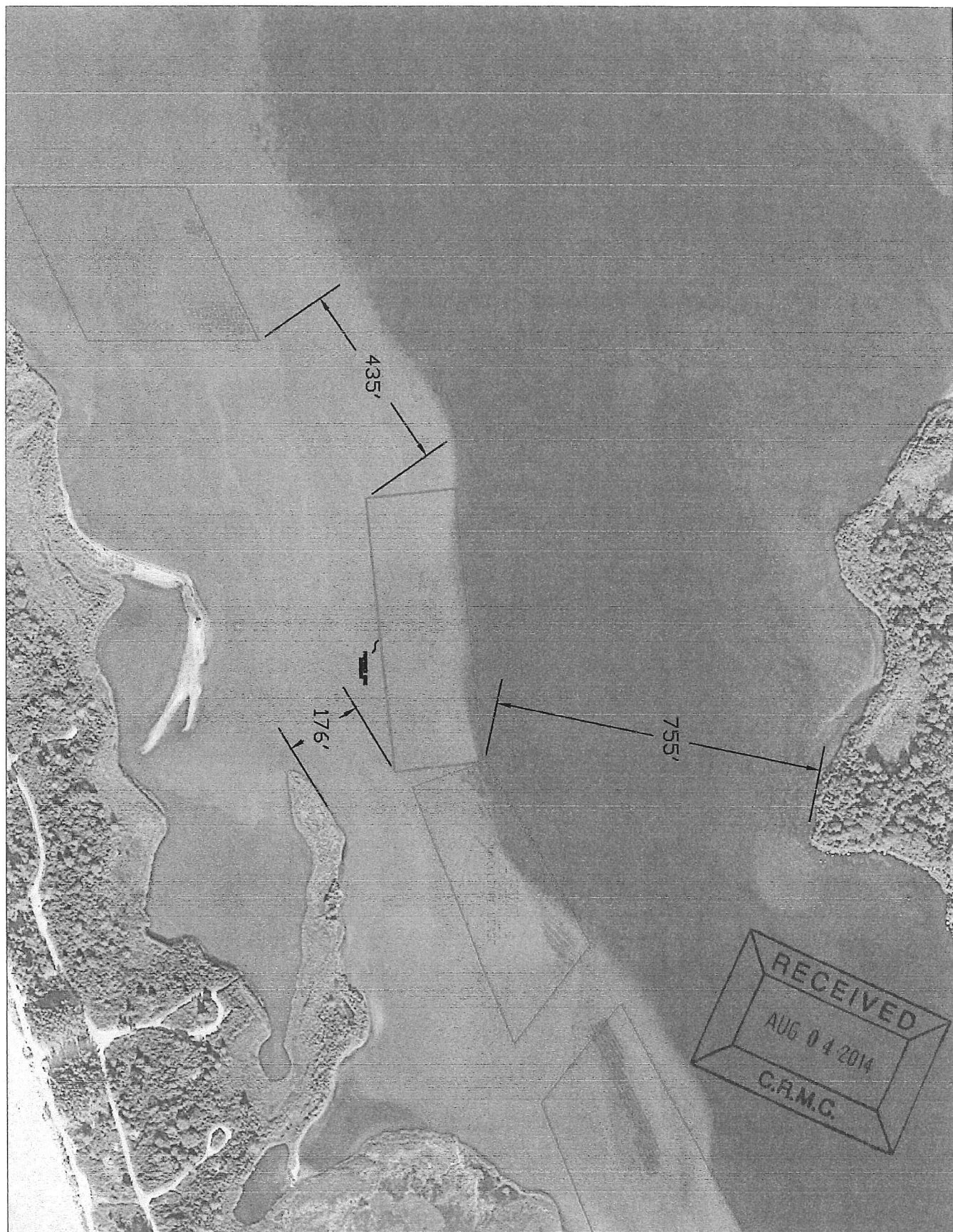


Figure 1: Location map of proposed site – NOAA nautical chart

<p>SCALE: 1" = 1500'</p>		<p>PROPOSED SITE LOCATION</p> <p>NINIGRET POND, CHARLESTOWN, RI</p>	<p>RECEIVED</p> <p>AUG 04 2014</p> <p>SR.M.C.</p> <p>WALRUS AND CARPENTER OYSTERS LLC</p> <p>PREPARED: FEBRUARY 22, 2014</p>
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Figure 4: Distance to nearest shoreline features of proposed site



SCALE: 1" = 300'



### PROPOSED SITE CONTEXT

NINIGRET POND, CHARLESTOWN, RI

WALRUS AND CARPENTER  
DYSTERS LLC

PREPARED: FEBRUARY 22, 2014

Figure 3: Plan view of grow-out site

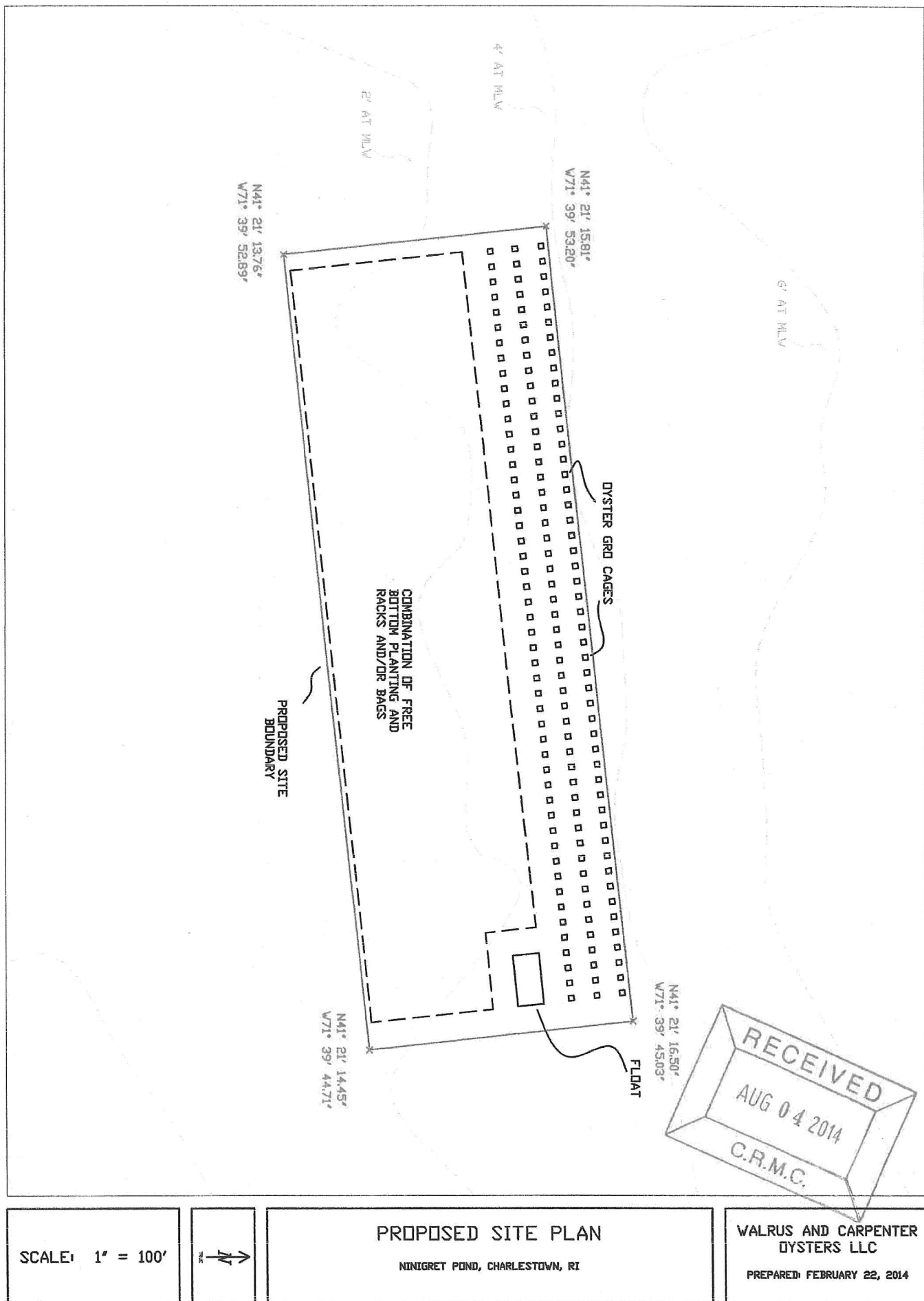
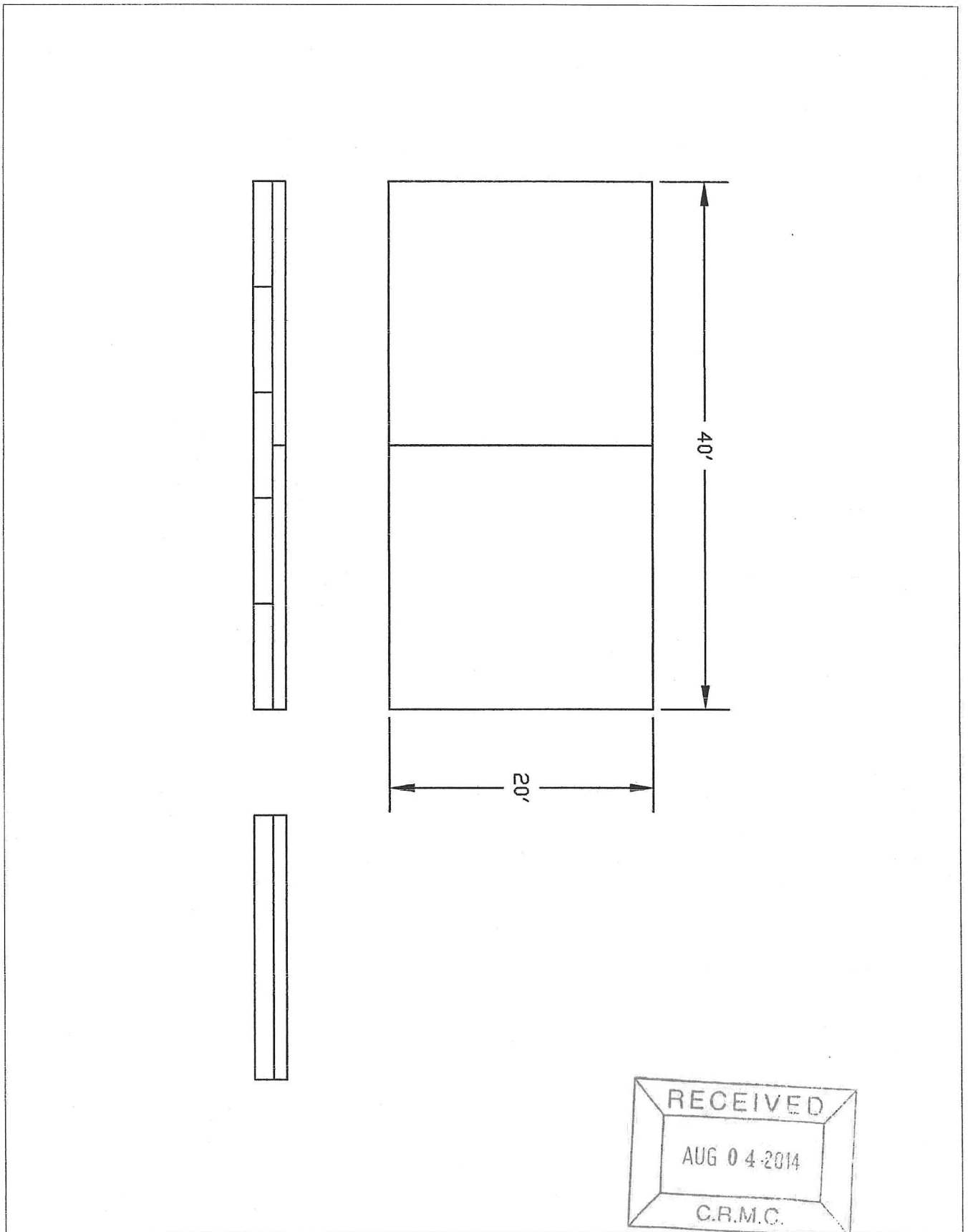




Figure 8: Details of proposed work platform.



SCALE: 1' = 20'

# FLOATING WORK PLATFORM DETAILS

NINIGRET POND, CHARLESTOWN, RI

WALRUS AND CARPENTER  
OYSTERS LLC

PREPARED: FEBRUARY 24, 2014

## Operational Plan:

I am applying to lease an additional 3.0-acre aquaculture site directly adjacent to my existing 2.75-acre aquaculture site in Ninigret Pond, Charlestown, RI (Figure 1 and Figure 2). I have been operating a successful oyster farm, Walrus and Carpenter Oysters LLC, for five years on my original site. The site is now completely full of aquaculture gear and/or bottom planted oysters, to the point where it was a struggle to find room for all of the product this fall. Additional acreage will allow me to continue to grow my business.

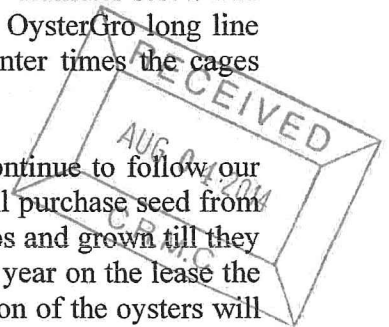
Over the last five years I have found that the two greatest drawbacks to operating an efficient and productive oyster farm in Ninigret Pond to be (1) the lack of commercial working waterfront space to efficiently maintain and process our crop and (2) the combination of limited flow and high nutrient enrichment resulting in an enormous amount of biofouling on aquaculture gear. To overcome these hurdles I am proposing the following two new additions to my existing operating plan: (1) an on-site floating work platform and (2) floating gear.

A work platform would greatly improve the efficiency of grading, bagging, and processing our oysters. Currently all of this work is done on two 20' boats. These boats are also used to transport clean and fouled oyster bags to and from the farm on a daily basis. Given their dual purpose there is not sufficient room on these boats to perform all of the necessary maintenance tasks the oyster crop demands. The work platform would be 20'x40'. It would be anchored on the lease from April through November. Four 300lb pyramid anchors, with 10ft of 1" bottom chain and 12ft of 5/8" top chain would be installed to secure it in place. In the winter time the platform would be hauled out and stored at Lavin's Landing.

The biofouling on our oyster gear restricts the already limited flow of water to our oyster crop. The result is reduced growth and higher mortality rates. Currently to combat this problem we expend an enormous amount of time and energy switching fouled gear with clean gear or manually removing biofouling. Periodically exposing aquaculture gear to the air is a proven method of efficiently controlling biofouling. The "OysterGro" cages I am proposing in this application would allow us to do this quickly and easily by periodically flipping the floating cages over so that the biofouling on the oysters and the gear would dry out and die. The cages would be flipped over several times during each growing season (April through November) and be exposed for one to two days at a time. The OysterGro cages would be deployed on long lines. Each long line would be 150-feet long and contain 12 cages tethered together with 3/8" line. The long lines would be secured to the bottom with helix anchors (8" diameter screw and 1" x 4' shaft) and 1" bottom chain on either end. For details of a typical OysterGro long line layout please see attached document "OysterGro Guidelines". In the winter times the cages would be sunk to the bottom protecting them from ice and wind damage.

Other than the additions to my operation plan described above we will continue to follow our existing operation plan as described below. In the spring of each year I will purchase seed from a variety of certified hatcheries. Seed oysters will be placed in upweller silos and grown till they are large enough to be transferred to the lease for grow-out. For their first year on the lease the oysters will be housed in the OysterGro cages. After their first year a portion of the oysters will be free planted on the bottom of the lease where they will grow until they are market size. The remainder of the oysters will be grown to market size in sub-tidal racks and/or bags.

We use a 20-foot wooden skiff and a 20-foot pontoon boat for all farm activities. We plan to remove biofouling by air-drying all gear monthly during the growing season. If bags or gear



become excessively fouled we will switch them out with clean gear and bring the fouled gear to our storage facility in Charlestown, RI (on private property). Throughout the growing season oysters will be tumbled and sorted by size by our hydraulic grader. We will grade and adjust densities of oysters in bags during the growing season. When the oysters reach market size we will either harvest the product directly from bags or with a bull rake and/or scallop dredge from the bottom. In the winter bags and gear will be placed in the deeper sections of the lease to enable retrieval when ice limits access and to avoid potential ice damage.

We have developed a system to track oysters on the farm to ensure that seed from upwellers or hatcheries in "closed" or "conditional" waters is not harvested before it has been in the "open" water of my farm for one-year. First we created a spreadsheet that represents the spatial configuration of my farm and depicts all of the individual units of gear on the farm. Next, we created a color code for each batch of seed and numerical code for each size grade of oyster. We then filled in the spreadsheet with the current inventory of oysters on the farm. We record each week's farm activity in a new tab in the spreadsheet. The result is a constantly updated map/inventory depicting the location, source, number and size class of all of the oysters on the farm, as well as a weekly record of the inventory and the status of the farm at that time. To compliment the spreadsheet and make daily operations easier we have also labeled each piece of gear with a color-coded and numbered plastic tag. This system allows us to track each batch of oysters as they move through the farm and ensures that seed from "closed" or "conditional" waters will remain in the "open" water on the farm for a minimum of one year.

We currently sell our oysters directly to approximately 25 restaurants throughout Rhode Island and plan to continue to do so. If at some point our production level exceeds local market availability we will explore avenues for selling our product through distributors.



## Layout of Long Lines

A typical long line consists of one individual row of 10 to 12 OysterGro Units (view figure II). The units are linked together with 3/8" ropes (view figure III). Proper anchorage is necessary to hold the units to the seabed. A long line is about 160 ft long and rule of thumb, 100 OysterGro cages can be set on a one-acre lot.

The distance between the long lines must be sufficient to allow for navigation and to provide easy access when tending to the cages - 28 feet is suggested.

Bouctouche Bay Industries Ltd will supply a rope kit to new growers. This kit can be used as a model.

Figure II – Long lines

This figure shows the layout of 3 - 10 OysterGro cages long lines on the water surface.

